

REMARKS

This is responsive to the final Office Action dated October 19, 2004 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1- 38 as either being anticipated by Downs et al (US Patent No. 6,249,836) under 35USC §102(e) or being obvious over Downs in view of Cheng et al (U Patent No. 6,763,403) under 35USC §103(a). The Examiner further objects to the drawings for formality deficiencies.

Applicants have amended Figure 1 to meet the requirements of 37CFR §1.84(p)(5). In particular, reference numbers 122-146, which are not mentioned in the Specification, are replaced with 104-108 respectively. In addition, a legend “Prior Art” is added in Figure 1. A proposed Figure 1 is enclosed with the correction shown in red for approval, and a corrected Figure 1 is also enclosed for replacement upon approval. No new matter is believed to have been introduced.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s objections to the drawings under 37CFR §1.94(p)(4). In particular, 37 CFR §1.94(p)(4) reads “[T]he same part of an invention appearing in more than one view of the drawing must always be designated by the same reference character ...” (underlining added). It is clear that 37 CFR §1.94(p)(4) regulates how to designate the same part in plural views, while the reference characters 110-140, 206-211, 104-108, 221-226, 231-236 designate components in a single view. Therefore, the objections to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.94(p)(4) are believed improper, and are thus respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended the claims to better define the present invention. In particular, Applicants have amended independent claims 8, 11, 19, 22 and 27 to expressly recite the distinguishing feature that the two categories of services provided by a service provider – one requires the service provider to trust the serviced entities, and the other requires the serviced entities to trust the service provider – are provided from different or separated servers or forests, which is already recited

in independent claims 1 and 14 in similar languages. Moreover, dependent claims 13 and 29 are amended to perfect the claim language, and dependent claims 24 and 28 are cancelled. Dependent claims 32-38 are amended to better define additional distinguishing features.

As to the rejections to the claims, Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, unlike asserted by the Examiner, Down et al (US Patent No. 6,249,836) does not disclose or imply the distinguishable feature of the present invention that the two categories of services provided by a service provider – one requires the service provider to trust the serviced entities, and the other requires the serviced entities to trust the service provider – are provided from different or separated servers or forests, as defined in previously presented independent claims 1 and 14 as well as in now amended independent claims 8, 11, 19, 22 and 27 in similar languages. In fact, Down does not discuss any service that requires a serviced entity to trust a service provider. This discrepancy cannot be overcome by the disclosure of Cheng et al (U Patent No. 6,763,403) since Cheng also does not discuss any service that requires a serviced entity to trust a service provider. Below are more detailed explanations.

Downs (US Patent No. 6,249,836) discloses a method and apparatus for providing remote and distributed processing of a task. More specifically, as shown in Figure 2, a resource allocator 14 is provided to help the resource requestor 12 to find an available resource provider 16. In other words, Downs provides a “brokerage” service between the task requesters and the resource providers who can process the tasks requested by the resource requestor 12. However, Downs does not teach or imply that the two categories of services are provided by different or separate servers or forests of the service provider, as defined in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22 and 27. In fact, Downs does not discuss any service that requires a serviced entity (the resource requestor 12 or the resource provider 16) to trust the service provider (the resource allocator 14). All the services provided by the resource

allocator 14 (read as “service provider”) are those requiring the resource allocator 14 to trust the resource requestor 12 and/or the resource provider 16 (read as “serviced entities”) if any trust is needed in the operation of the system (e.g., for billing purpose).

The description of the accounting unit 44 in Down cited by the Examiner (col. 4, lines 41-45) at most only implies that the resource allocator 14 is required to trust the resource requestor 12 and/or the resource provider 16, but not that the resource requestor 12 or the resource provider 16 is required to trust the resource allocator 14. Apparently the Examiner has improperly interpreted the term “trust” with its general meaning while reading the claim language. As clearly described in the original Specification, the term “trust” in the present application means a relationship between two sets of computers (e.g., domains) that allows users in one of the sets of computers to access resources in another set of computers in a secure way (page 5, lines 23-25), and is defined by Microsoft Corporation as: “A trust relationship allows users and global groups from another user account database to be used. It is a link between domains that enables pass-through authentication, in which a trusting domain honors the logon authentications of a trusted domain. With trust relationships, a user who has only one user account in one domain can potentially access the entire network. User accounts and global groups defined in a trusted domain can be given rights and resource permissions in a trusting domain, even though those accounts do not exist in the trusting domain’s directory database.” (see page 5, lines 12-22 of the Specification). In fact, in Down there is no need for the resource allocator 14 to get access to either the resource requestor 12 or the resource provider 16, and therefore the services that the resource allocator 14 provides to the resource requestor 12 and/or the resource provider 16 do not required the later to trust the resource allocator 14.

Similarly, Cheng et al. (US Patent No. 6,763,403) does not discuss anything about a service that requires a service entity to trust the service provider, either. Cheng discloses a system for

facilitating a user computer to find and install updates of software from various vendors installed in the computer. More specifically, by running a client application, the user computer can download update information from an update database of a service provider and determine which software needs to be updated. Then the user computer can download the update itself from the vendor. Neither the service provided by the service provider to the user computer (for downloading update information) nor the service provided by the vendor to the user computer (for downloading the update itself) is a service that requires the user computer (read as a “service entity”) to trust the service provider or vendor (read as “service provider” in claims). Therefore it is unlikely that Cheng may contribute to overcome the discrepancy existing between Down and the present invention.

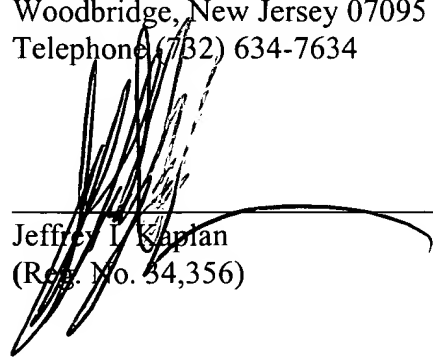
Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22 and 27 are not anticipated by Down under 35USC §102(e) or obvious over a combination of Down and Cheng under 35USC §103(a), and are therefore patentable. At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-18, 23-26 and 28-38 are also patentable as each of them includes all the limitations of one of the independent claims. In particular, dependent claims 32-38 further defines additional distinguishing features in similar languages regarding the one-way trust relationship between the servers of the service provider that provide the two categories of services, which cannot be found anywhere in either Down or Cheng, and therefore the patentability of dependent claims 32-38 is further strengthened.

Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above remarks and amendments. The Examiner is authorized to deduct additional fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 19, 2005

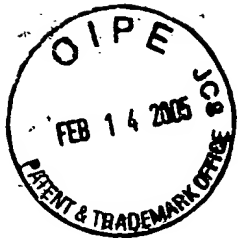
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Amendments to the drawings:

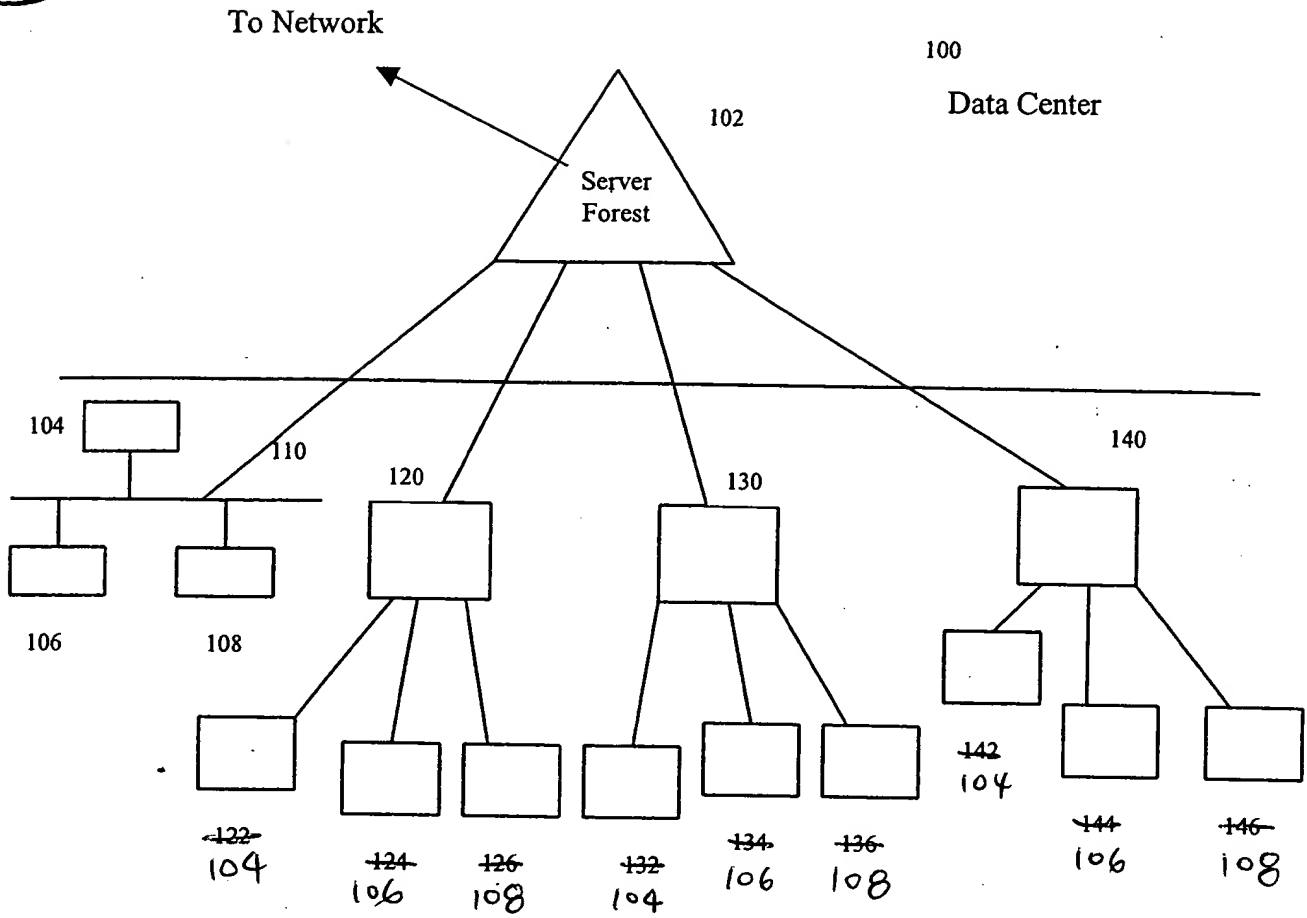
Figure 1 is amended. A proposed Figure 1 is enclosed for approval with the amendments shown in red, and a corrected Figure 1 is also enclosed for replacement upon approval.

In the amendments to Figure. 1, reference numbers 122-146 ARE REPLACED WITH 104-108 respectively. In addition, a legend “Prior Art” is added in Figure 1.



Marked-up version

FIG. 1



(Prior Art)